

the Office of Personnel Management, Washington, DC 20415.

[28 FR 14808, Dec. 31, 1963, as amended by T.D. 91–77, 56 FR 46114, Sept. 10, 1991]

§ 24.34 Vouchers; vendors' bills of sale; invoices.

(a) Vouchers or invoices for transportation and related services which are intended for payment from official funds shall contain the following certification signed by the claimant:

I certify that the above bill is correct and just and that payment has not been received.

Vouchers, vendors' bills of sale, or invoices for purchases or services other than personal do not require the foregoing certification.

(b) Every voucher shall be in the name of the person or persons furnishing the service or supplies, except in the case of a service or supplies paid for in an emergency by a Customs officer or employee, in which case the voucher may be in the name of the officer or employee who made the payment.

(c) The signature of a claimant made by a mark shall be attested in each case by a disinterested witness.

(d) The dates appearing on vouchers and on receipts filed in support thereof shall always be the actual dates of the transactions recorded or action taken thereon. As many copies in memorandum form, duly authenticated if desired, may be prepared as administrative or other requirements demand.

(e) When an erasure, interlineation, or change of any kind is made in a voucher after it has been certified by the claimant, such correction or change shall be initialed and dated by the claimant.

(f)(1) Vouchers for passenger transportation furnished Customs officers or employees on Government transportation requests, standard Form 1169, and vouchers for transportation of freight and express furnished on Government bills of lading, standard Form 1103, issued by Customs officers or employees shall be rendered on Public Voucher for Transportation Charges, standard Form 1171 or 1113, respectively, to the Customs office to be billed as indicated on the transportation request or bill of lading.

(2) Charges for freight or express must not be included on the same vouchers with charges for passenger transportation. The words "Passenger," "Freight," or "Express," as the case may be, should be printed or otherwise placed by the carrier immediately above the title of the voucher form. Original Government bills of lading, standard Form 1103, or transportation requests, standard Form 1169, or certificates in lieu thereof, standard Forms 1108 or 1172, respectively, shall be attached to these vouchers.

§ 24.36 Refunds of excessive duties, taxes, etc.

(a) When it is found on liquidation or reliquidation of an entry that a refund of excessive duties or taxes, or both, is due, a refund shall be prepared in the name of the person to whom the refund is due, as determined by paragraphs (b) and (c) of this section. If an authority to mail checks to someone other than the payee, Customs Form 4811, is on file, the address of the payee shall be shown as in care of the address of the authorized persons. If a power of attorney is on file, the address of the payee may be shown as in care of the address of such attorney, if requested. A Form 4811 received by Customs will not be effective if a Customs transaction requiring the use of the owner's importer number has not been made within 3 years from the date the Form 4811 was filed or if there is no unliquidated entry on file to which such number is to be associated.

(b) Refunds of excessive duties or taxes shall be certified for payment to the importer of record unless a transferee of the right to withdraw merchandise from bonded warehouse is entitled to receive the refund under section 557(b), Tariff Act of 1930, as amended, or an owner's declaration has been filed in accordance with section 485(d), Tariff Act of 1930, or a surety submits evidence of payment to Customs, upon default of the principal, of amounts previously determined to be due on the same entry or transaction. The certification of a refund for payment to a nominal consignee may be made prior to the expiration of the 90-day period within which an owner's declaration may be filed as prescribed

in section 485(d) of the Tariff Act, provided the nominal consignee waives in writing his right to file such declaration. If an owner's declaration has been duly filed, the refund shall be certified for payment to the actual owner who executed the declaration, except that, irrespective of whether an owner's declaration has been filed, refunds shall be certified for payment to a transferee provided for in section 557(b), Tariff Act of 1930, as amended, if the moneys with respect to which the refund was allowed were paid by such transferee. If a surety submits evidence of payment to Customs, upon default of the principal, for an amount previously determined to be due on an entry or transaction the refund shall be certified to that surety up to the amount paid by it or shall be applied to other obligations of the surety.

(c) If the nominal consignee has become bankrupt, refunds of duties or internal revenue taxes on merchandise entered in the name of such nominal consignee for the account of the actual owner shall be withheld from payment pending the receipt of a claim therefor and the establishment of rights thereto, unless the declaration of the actual owner has been filed with the port director under section 485(d), Tariff Act of 1930.

(d) The authority of port directors to make refunds pursuant to paragraphs (a), (b), and (c) of this section of excessive deposits of alcohol or tobacco taxes, as defined in section 6423(e)(1), Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (26 U.S.C. 6423(e)(1)), is confined to cases of the types which are excepted from the application of section 6423, Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (26 U.S.C. 6423). The excepted types of cases and, therefore, the types in which the port director is authorized to make refunds of such taxes are those in which:

(1) The tax was paid or collected on an article imported for the personal or household use of the importer;

(2) The refund is made pursuant to provisions of laws and regulations for drawback;

(3) The tax was paid or collected on an imported article withdrawn from the market, returned to bond, or lost or destroyed, when any law expressly provides for refund in such case;

(4) The tax was paid or collected on an imported article which has been lost, where a suit or proceeding was instituted before June 15, 1957;

(5) The refund of tax is pursuant to a claim based solely on errors of computation of the quantity of the imported article, or on mathematical errors in computation of the tax due;

(6) The tax was paid or collected on an imported article seized and forfeited, or destroyed, as contraband;

(7) The tax was paid or collected on an imported article refused admission to Customs territory and exported or destroyed in accordance with section 558, Tariff Act of 1930, as amended;

(8) The refund of tax is pursuant to a reliquidation of an entry under section 520(c)(1), Tariff Act of 1930, as amended, and does not involve a rate of tax applicable to an imported article; or

(9) The tax was paid or collected on a greater quantity of imported articles than that actually imported and the fact of the deficiency is established to the port directors' satisfaction before liquidation of the entry becomes final.

(e) In any instance in which a refund of an alcohol or tobacco tax is not of a type covered by paragraph (d) of this section the following procedure shall apply:

(1) The port director shall issue a notice of refund for duty only and shall place the following statement on the notice of refund issued for duty: "Claim or refund of any overpayment of internal revenue tax on this entry must be executed and filed with the assistant regional commissioner (alcohol, tobacco and firearms) of the internal revenue region in which the claimant is located, in accordance with internal revenue regulations (Title 26 of the Code of Federal Regulations)." On request of the claimant, the port director shall issue a certified statement on Customs letterhead identifying the entry, showing the amount of internal revenue tax deposited with respect to each entry for which a claim on internal revenue Form 843 is to be made, and showing the date of issuance of the notice of refund of duty.

(2) The claim shall be executed on internal revenue Form 843 (original only) which may be procured from offices of the Internal Revenue Service and shall

be filed with the assistant regional commissioner (alcohol, tobacco and firearms) of the internal revenue region in which the claimant is located. The certified statement shall be attached to and filed in support of such claim which may include refunds under more than one entry but shall be limited to refunds under entries filed in the same port and the same internal revenue region. The data to be shown on the claim shall be as prescribed in internal revenue regulations, with the exception that any data on the certified statement also required to be shown in the claim need not be restated in the claim.

(3) The date of allowance of refund or credit in respect of such tax for the purposes of section 6407, Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (26 U.S.C. 6407) shall be that date on which a claim is perfected and the refund is authorized for scheduling under the applicable internal revenue regulations.

[28 FR 14808, Dec. 31, 1963, as amended by T.D. 67-33, 32 FR 494, Jan. 18, 1967; T.D. 71-289, 36 FR 23150, Dec. 4, 1971; T.D. 89-1, 53 FR 51254, Dec. 21, 1988]

§ 24.70 Claims; deceased or incompetent public creditors.

(a) Claims for amounts due individual deceased public creditors of the United States (except civilian officers and employees subject to the provisions of section 61f-61k, Title 5, United States Code), should be made on standard Form No. 1055—Revised. Such claims include claims for payments due deceased contractors for articles furnished or services performed, and claims for payments due deceased importers or owners of merchandise on account of refunds of excessive duties, or taxes, or for payment of drawback, etc. Claims for payment of Government checks drawn on the Treasurer of the United States or other authorized Government depository to the order of such public creditors, which cannot be paid because of the death of the payee, should be stated on standard Form 1055—Revised. Information should be furnished regarding the disposition of these checks in case they are not in possession of the claimant, otherwise they should accompany the claim.

(b) No form is prescribed for use of a guardian or committee of an estate of an incompetent in making claim for sums due from the United States. Such guardian or committee may submit in letter form, over his address and signature, an application for amounts due an estate of an incompetent, setting forth the incompetent's connection with the United States Customs Service. This application should be supported by a short certificate of the court showing the appointment and qualification of the claimant as guardian or committee. In case the total amount due the estate of the incompetent is small, and no guardian or committee of the estate has been or will be appointed, the application may be submitted by the person or persons having care or custody of the incompetent, or by close relatives who will hold any amount found due for the use and benefit of the incompetent. Applications for recurring payments need not be accompanied by an additional certificate of the court, but should be supported by a statement that the appointment is still in full force and effect. All Government checks drawn on the Treasurer of the United States or other authorized Government depository to the order of individuals which cannot be paid because of incompetency of the payee should accompany the claim, otherwise an explanation should be given as to the disposition of the check.

(c) Claims for payments due deceased or incompetent contractors should be submitted to the Customs field officer at whose order the articles were furnished or services performed. Claims for refunds of excessive duties, or taxes, or for payment of drawback and other similar claims due deceased or incompetent public creditors shall be submitted to the port director. The Customs field officer may grant necessary assistance to claimants to insure proper execution of standard Form 1055—Revised in the case of deceased public creditors, and in the case of incompetent public creditors to insure submission of the application in proper form. The port director shall settle the claim unless there is a doubtful question of fact or law, in which case the